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THE OBSERVATOR.

On her Majeſty's moſt gracious Speech; her Royal Care of the Poor; her Concern to ſupport the Allies, and bring the War to a happy Concluſion. On the Parliament's chearful Concurrence, and the Proſpect of our being able to ſecond our Efforts at Land, by the like at Sea, ſince the Earl of Orford, *who broke the naval Power of* France *at* La Hogue, *is at the Head of our Marine Affairs.*

From Wednesday, November 16. to Saturday, November 19. 1709.

Country-m. PRAY, Maſter, let you and I diſcourſe a little upon the Queen's moſt gracious Speech to both Houſes of Parliament; for I and my Country Neighbours are hugely pleaſed with it.

Obſ. With all my Heart, *Roger.* I ſhall be glad to hear the Remarks of you Country-men upon it; for you have a Way of thinking peculiar to your ſelves, which, for moſt Part, is very honeſt. Pray what is it in the Speech that pleaſes you and your Neighbours ſo much?

Country-m. We are like the reſt of the World, Maſter, always beſt pleas'd when we ſee our Intereſt taken Care of; and I can aſſure you, we Country Folks are as ſenſible of Kindneſſes done us, and as thankful for them, as any Quality of them all. Therefore, Maſter, we heartily pray for the Queen, becauſe ſhe has been graciouſly pleas'd to conſider the Caſe of the Poor, and ſo earneſtly to recommend to the Parliament, for their Sakes, to prevent the growing Evil of the high Price of Corn, which occaſions ſo many to want Bread.

Obſ. In that, as in all other Things, *Roger*, her Majeſty has acted like a true and affectionate Mother of her People, and our Repreſentatives act like honourable Patriots, in taking it ſo early into their Conſideration, to prevent the Exportation of too much of our Corn, by Men who, for the Sake of filthy Lucre, would ſtarve their Neighbours, to enrich themſelves, and care not a Farthing what becomes of the Nation, ſo they can but fill their own Pockets.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, they will improve this Opportunity to make the Diſcovery and Puniſhment of Ingroſſers, Foreſtallers, and Regraters, more eaſy to be effected than hitherto, that thoſe ravening Wovles may not hence-forward ſuck out the Heart-Blood of the Poor at their Pleaſure; and I hope, before the Seſſion conclude, they will alſo conſider to make the Laws more effectual for ſetting the Poor at Work, and puniſhing Vagrants: But there are other Things in her Majeſty's Speech, Maſter, that pleaſes us Country Folks very much.

Obſ. Out with them, *Roger*; for I am very glad that thoſe Fire-brands of Sedition, who endeavour'd, by their clamouring Sermons, and malicious Libels, to ſet us together by the Ears, and to put the Nation in a Ferment at the opening of the Seſſion, are ſo much diſappointed, and that you Country Folks, and others, are ſo well pleas'd. Pray go on with your Reaſons.

Country-m. We are mightily pleas'd, Maſter, to hear her Majeſty ſay from the Throne, *That the laſt Campaign has been as glorious, at leaſt for the Allies, as any of thoſe which preceeded*; for you know what Pains the Faction was at, by their ſeditious News-Writers, to ſpread the contrary all over the Country, to leſſen, nay, even to deny our Victory, and to flout at the Duke of *Marlborough* for calling it one. We are glad to hear it from her Majeſty's Mouth, *That it was not only a Victory, but a moſt remarkable one; which, with the great and important Succeſſes, both before and after it, has made* France *more open to the Impreſſion of our Arms, and more in need of a Peace, than at the Beginning of the Campaign.*

Obſ. You find that the Parliament is of the ſame Opinion, *Roger*, as to the remarkable Succeſſes of the laſt Campaign; have congratulated her Majeſty upon it, and order'd his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* Thanks for the Honour and Advantage which this Kingdom, and the whole Confederacy have receiv'd by his eminent Services. This I take to be of very great Importance, *Roger*, not only as it confutes all thoſe malicious Reports that the Faction, by their ſeditious Libellers, ſpread through the Nation, but becauſe it blaſts at once the Hopes they had conceiv'd of raiſing and fomenting Diviſions among us by their Miſrepreſentations.

Country-m We are mightily pleas'd too, Maſter, at that Paſſage in her Majeſty's Speech, which ſays, *That the many Wants and Diſtreſſes of our Enemies, may naturally lead us to expect a Peace, yet our own late Experience may fully convince us, 'tis not to be depended upon any other Way, than by being in a Condition to compel them to ſuch Terms as may be ſafe and honourable for all the Allies.* This is ſpoke ſo like a Heroine, Maſter, that it wonderfully animates us Country Folks, whoſe Lives and Fortunes are at her Majeſty's Service, in order to reduce that exorbitant and oppreſſive Power which has ſo long threaten'd the Liberties of *Europe*. This makes us heartily pray for her Majeſty, and our honourable Repreſentatives, who ſo chearfully and readily concur to enable her Majeſty to bring this tedious, bloody, and expenſive War to a ſafe and happy Concluſion for all the Confederates.

Obſ. We have good Reaſon to hope, *Roger*, by the Bleſſing of God, to ſee that effected, if we be not wanting to our ſelves, eſpecially, if there be Care taken to put our Fleet in a Condition to make her Majeſty's Arms as glorious by Sea, as God has made them by Land.

Country-m. By our Country Way of Reaſoning, Maſter, we flatter our ſelves that it will be ſo, ſince the Earl of *Orford* is at the Head of the Admiralty. This puts us in Hopes of another Expedition like that of *La Hogue*, which prov'd ſo fatal to the *French* Fleet.

Obſ. We have no Reaſon to queſtion the Earl's Courage, Conduct, or Affection, *Roger*, but we don't know whether the Fleet be in ſo good a State, as 'twas then, or what Time is requiſite to make it ſo. However, 'tis our Satisfaction, that his Lordſhip perfectly well underſtands it; will ſoon be able to find where the Defects lie, and is capable of adviſing to proper Remedies: For no Body can ſay, he is a Land Admiral. He had the Honour to give the *French* Naval Power the greateſt Blow that ever it receiv'd, and which, we hope they will never be able to retrieve. We may remember, that at the ſame Time, he prevented an Invaſion, which was ſo privately concerted by the *French* Court, and our Jacobites at Home, that ſcarce any Thing was heard of it 'till the *French* Troops were ready to embark, with the late King *James* at their Head, and in order to make it the more ſucceſsful, Col-

Par-,

Parker, and a Number of Aſſaſſins, was got ready to have murder'd the late Queen *Mary*, of glorious Memory, while *Grandval*, and others, were to have attempted the like againſt our Deliverer, King *William*, then at the Head of the Confederate Army beyond Sea. But, by what Advice, God knows. Admiral *Ruſſel* did not long enjoy his Poſt afterwards, notwithſtanding that eminent Piece of Service; nor did the Miniſter of State, who firſt diſcover'd that Plot, meet with a better Reward.

Country-m. Old *England* has too frequently had Enemies behind the Curtain, Maſter, who, by their wicked Intrigues, have done her a World of Miſchief; but I hope thoſe Times are paſt, and that the Earl will now be enabl'd to ſerve the Queen and his Country with as much Succeſs, as he did in the Reign of King *William*.

Obſ. I wiſh he may, *Roger:* His Lordſhip knows, as well as any Man, that the Navy Royal of *Great Britain* was deſign'd for other Things, than to lie up in Harbour, or merely to ſerve as Convoys to Merchant-men. That muſt not be neglected, 'tis true, becauſe the Trade of the Nation, and the Support of the Crown, depend ſo much upon it; but certainly this may be done, and the Enemy likewiſe touch'd in the moſt ſenſible Part, either by ſtopping their Supplies of Treaſure from the *Weſt Indies*, or by Bombardments, Invaſions, or Deſcents; for we have good Reaſon to believe, *Roger*, that the *French* Fleet is in no Condition to make Head againſt us at Sea, and will ſcarcely attempt it, when the Earl of *Orford* has ſo great a Share in the Management of our Marine Affairs. The Count *de Toulouſe* will certainly remember M. *de Turville*'s Fate, and take Care to avoid it, leſt he ſhould meet with a warmer Reception, and a Fleet better provided, than he met with off of *Velez Malaga*, when Men of War were oblig'd to tow out of our Line, for Want of Ammunition. Beſides, *Roger*, the three Deck Ships of *France* were ſo much damag'd at the Siege of *Toulon*, by the Fire of our Fleet and Batteries, and by being ſunk, that there's little Appearance of their putting out a Fleet. We ſee they content themſelves to annoy and diſturb our Trade with privateering Squadrons, which is an infallible Mark of their naval Power's being low; ſo that we have the faireſt Opportunity that can be wiſh'd for, to harraſs their Coaſts, and intercept their Money from the *Weſt Indies*.

Country-m. If the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Efforts by Land, be ſeconded by Sea, Maſter, I hope the ſtrong Lines which the *French* are caſting up, will be of no great Uſe to them, and that another Campaign may bring the War to a happy and glorious Concluſion, for the Security of the Allies.

Obſ. I hope ſo too, *Roger*; and that as her Majeſty ſhews ſuch a generous Concern for all her Confederates, that none of them will be wanting to act their Parts; or at leaſt, that Care will be taken to ſupport ſuch of them moſt effectually, as are likelieſt to make grateful Returns, and duly to improve the Aſſiſtance we give them. There's Reaſon to hope, by what General *Staremberg* did laſt Campaign, that he may be able to do much more next Year, if duly ſupported in *Catalonia*, now that the Court of *Rome* is brought to recognize King *Charles*, and in no Condition to give us any Diſturbance by their Bullets, or Bulls.

Country-m. We have Ground to hope for Succeſs, Maſter, ſince our Parliament ſo chearfully anſwers her Majeſty's Deſires for Diſpatch; and as the *French* have fail'd in creating Jealouſies and Diviſions among our Allies Abroad, I am hopeful that the Faction, who are for a Popiſh Prince, and a *French* Government, will alſo come ſhort in their Deſigns of dividing us at Home, ſince their Eccleſiaſtical Orators, and other Libellers, have now ſo plainly pull'd off their Maſk, and diſcover'd to all Men of Senſe, what malicious Deſigns they carry on, under a falſe Pretext of Zeal for the Church and Monarchy, while they themſelves are ſapping the Foundations of both.

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